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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

25X1 1. In May 1952, [] a permanent civilian recruiting commission of the VP was established at the SED Kreisleitung in Halberstadt. Chairman of this commission is an Oberkommissar who presides over several VP Kommissare. Most of these are FDJ members and SED and FDJ cadre secretaries. In early May, this commission convened a conference of managers of nationalized enterprises and chiefs of administrative agencies. It was also attended by the first secretaries of the SED who are in charge of residential and enterprise groups. Those present were directed to form recruiting commissions which were to include a manager, a secretary of the party organization, a labor union chairman and a FDJ secretary in charge of employees. Also, the town areas were organized into districts, with a commission of between 2 or 3 SED comrades in charge of each district. These commissions are responsible for the recruiting campaign, while the central commission is responsible for advising the individual groups through instructors.

2. Directives issued for the recruiting campaign stated that all applicants are eligible except ex-convicts, and those who have close relatives with the federal police in Western Germany. Applicants must be between 18 and 24 years of age, but drivers, automobile mechanics, electricians and locksmiths who have completed their apprenticeship may apply before they are 18 years old. They resign from their jobs the moment they are inducted into the VP. The induction is preceded by a registration and medical examination of the applicant.

The recruiting campaign is to be for all branches of service including army, navy and air force. Specialists of the former German Wehrmacht, particularly former tank, signalmen and engineers are admitted even if they are of older age. Although former rank and decorations are not specifically considered, such applicants are usually enlisted in their last rank and, according to observations made so far, often in a higher rank.

3. A general registration of all horses was made in Kreis Halberstadt in about mid-May 1952. The examination was made by the district veterinary who had served as captain (Vet) during World War II.

4. About 81 persons volunteered for the VP in Halberstadt in May 1952, a number equivalent to 50 percent of the quota which had been set.

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 Comment. The present report is indicative of the methods which are applied in recruiting personnel for the military VP. As had been anticipated, the restrictions contained in Order No 2 were loosened in an effort to fill the quota of enlistments. The reenlistment of former Wehrmacht personnel is also indicative of the new development. It is not known whether the registration of horses was made for military purposes, as it is believed that the Soviet Zone troops will be fully motorized.

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